

Cathedral City Municipal Code

[Up](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Main](#)[Search](#)[Print](#)[No Frames](#)[Title 3 REVENUE AND FINANCE](#)[Chapter 3.24 TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX](#)**3.24.011 Vacation rental units.***

* **CodeAlert:** This topic has been affected by Ordinance No. [842](#). To view amendments and newly added provisions, please refer to the [CodeAlert Amendment List](#).

A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to establish regulations for the use of privately owned residential dwellings as vacation rentals to ensure the collection and payment of applicable transient occupancy taxes and minimize the negative secondary effects of such use on surrounding residential neighborhoods. This section is not intended to modify the definitions included in Section 3.24.010, but rather to specifically regulate a defined subset of units included in the definition of “hotel.” Further, this section does not provide any owner of residential property with the right or privilege to violate any private conditions, covenants and restrictions applicable to the owner’s property that may prohibit the use of such owner’s residential property for short term rental purposes as discussed in this section.

B. Definitions. For purposes of this section only, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

“Apartment” means a dwelling unit in a multiple-family attached building with five or more units, where all of the units are under common ownership and held out for rent.

“Applicable laws, rules and regulations” means any laws, rules, regulations and codes (whether local, state or federal) pertaining to the use and occupancy of a privately owned dwelling unit as a vacation rental.

“Applicant” means the owner of the vacation rental unit or the owner’s authorized agent or representative.

“City manager” means that person acting in the capacity of the city manager of the city of Cathedral City or designee.

“Local contact person” means the person designated by the owner or the owner’s authorized agent or representative who shall be available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week for the purpose of: (1) responding within forty-five minutes to complaints regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants of the vacation rental unit; and (2) taking remedial action to resolve any such complaints.

“Owner” means the person(s) or entity(ies) that hold(s) legal and/or equitable title to the subject vacation rental.

“Property” means a residential legal lot of record on which a vacation rental unit is located.

“Responsible person” means an occupant of a vacation rental unit who is at least twenty-one years of age and who is legally responsible for ensuring that all occupants of the vacation rental unit and/or their guests comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject vacation rental unit.

“Transient” means any person who seeks to rent or who does rent a privately owned residential unit for a period of thirty consecutive calendar days or less.

“Vacation rental unit” means a privately owned residential dwelling (not a hotel, motel or timeshare), including, without limitation, a single-family detached or multiple-family attached unit (not including apartments), lodging or rooming house, condominium, duplex, triplex, quadplex, mobile home or house trailer at a fixed location, or other similar structure or portion thereof, and shall further include any space, lot, area, or site in any trailer court, campsite, park, or lot where a trailer, recreational vehicle, mobile home, motor home or any other conveyance, or any portion of such dwellings, rented for occupancy for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes for a period of thirty consecutive calendar days or less, counting portions of calendar days as full days. The term “vacation rental unit” shall not include any private dwelling house or other individually owned single-family dwelling house unit rented only occasionally (infrequently) and incidentally to the normal occupancy by the owner or his or her family; provided that the owner has filed adequate information with the tax administrator establishing and maintaining that such private dwelling house or other individually owned single-family dwelling house unit is exempt from the provisions of this chapter relating to transient occupancy tax by reason of such occasional, infrequent and incidental rental.

“Vacation rental unit permit” means a permit that allows the use of a privately owned residential dwelling as a vacation rental unit pursuant to the provisions of this section, and incorporates by consolidation the transient occupancy registration permit required by Section 3.24.015 of this chapter.

C. Authorized Agents or Representatives. An owner may authorize an agent or a representative to comply with the requirements of this section on behalf of the owner. However, the owner shall not be relieved from any personal responsibility for noncompliance with any applicable law, rule or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject vacation rental unit, regardless of whether such noncompliance was committed by the owner’s authorized agent or representative or the occupants of the owner’s vacation rental unit or their guests.

D. Vacation Rental Unit Permit Required—Application and Fee.

1. The owner or the owner’s authorized agent or representative is required to obtain a vacation rental unit permit from the city, pursuant to the provisions of this section, before renting any vacation rental unit to any transient for a period of thirty consecutive calendar days or less. Such vacation rental unit permit must be renewed annually to remain valid. A vacation rental unit permit shall not be renewed if there are unresolved city code compliance cases, outstanding city fines or fees, or city liens on the property.

2. The owner or the owner’s authorized agent or representative must submit the following information on a vacation rental unit permit application form provided by the city:

- a. The name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the subject vacation rental unit;
- b. The name, address, and telephone number of the owner’s authorized agent or representative, if any;
- c. The name, address, and twenty-four hour telephone number of the local contact person;
- d. The address of the proposed vacation rental unit;
- e. The number of bedrooms and the applicable overnight and daytime occupancy limit of the proposed vacation rental unit;
- f. Such other information as the city manager or designee deems reasonably necessary to administer this chapter.

3. In addition to the requirements of subsection (D)(2), for units located in any area governed by a homeowners association or community association (association) and subject to covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs), the owner or the owner’s authorized agent or representative must additionally submit a letter from the association’s governing board stating that either the CC&Rs do not regulate such vacation rentals, or that vacation rentals are not prohibited at the proposed unit by the CC&Rs. For units subject to CC&Rs but not within an association, a copy of the CC&Rs shall be submitted to the city to determine whether vacation rentals are either not regulated or not prohibited by the CC&Rs.

4. The vacation rental unit permit application shall be accompanied by an application and registration fee in an amount established by city council resolution from time to time.

5. The city shall conduct a health and safety inspection of the proposed vacation rental unit prior to issuing a new vacation rental unit permit and prior to issuing any renewal vacation rental unit permit. No initial or renewal permit shall be issued if the unit does not have functioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, HVAC, electricity or plumbing, the structure has been substantially modified in any way that required a building permit from the city and a permit was not obtained, or the city determines that any other conditions are present on the property that would present a substantial threat to the health, safety or welfare of guests.

6. A vacation rental unit permit application may be denied if the applicant has had a prior vacation rental unit permit for the same unit revoked within the past twelve calendar months.

7. A vacation rental unit permit application shall be denied if the unit is an apartment.

8. Within fourteen days of a change of property ownership, change of owner’s agent or representative, or any other change in material facts pertaining to the information contained in the vacation rental unit permit application, the owner or owner’s authorized agent or representative shall submit an application and requisite application fee for a new vacation rental unit permit, which must be obtained prior to continuing to rent the subject unit as a vacation rental.

9. Upon the issuance of a new vacation rental permit, the city shall mail a notice at the owner’s cost and expense to all residences within one hundred feet of the property line of the vacation rental unit notifying the occupants that a vacation rental permit has been issued and providing information regarding how to lodge complaints regarding the vacation rental unit, if any. For a period of one year from the effective date of this subsection (D)(9) the notice required by this subsection shall also be sent upon the issuance of a renewal vacation rental permit.

E. Standard Operational Requirements and Conditions.

1. The owner and/or owner's authorized agent or representative shall use reasonably prudent business practices to ensure the vacation rental unit is used in a manner that complies with all applicable laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject vacation rental unit, and shall further use reasonably prudent business practices to ensure the occupants and/or guests of the vacation rental unit do not create noise in violation of Municipal Code Chapter 11.96 or disturbances, engage in disorderly conduct, or violate any applicable law, rule or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject vacation rental unit.

2. Upon notification that the responsible person and/or any occupant and/or guest of the vacation rental unit has created noise in violation of Municipal Code Chapter 11.96 or disturbances, engaged in disorderly conduct, or committed violations of any applicable law, rule or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject vacation unit, the owner, the owner's authorized agent or representative and/or the owner's designated local contact person shall promptly respond in a timely and appropriate manner to immediately halt or prevent a recurrence of such conduct by the responsible person and/or any occupants and/or guests. Failure of the owner, the owner's authorized agent or representative and/or the owner's designated local contact person to respond to calls or complaints regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants and/or guests of the vacation rental in a timely and appropriate manner shall be subject to all administrative, legal and equitable remedies available to the city.

3. The number of occupants allowed to occupy any given vacation rental unit shall be limited as follows:

Number of Bedrooms	Maximum Number of Overnight* Occupants	Maximum Number of Daytime** Occupants (Including Number of Overnight Occupants)
0—Studio	2	8
1	2	8
2	4	8
3	6	12
4	8	16
5	10	18
6	12	18
7	14	18

* Overnight (10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.)

** Daytime (7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.)

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the occupancy limits may be exceeded if the owner or authorized representative obtains a special use permit for a special event pursuant to Chapter 9.68 of this code.

4. While a vacation rental unit is rented, the owner, the owner's authorized agent or representative and/or the owner's designated local contact person shall be available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week for the purpose of responding within forty-five minutes to complaints regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants of the vacation rental unit or their guests. No person shall lodge a false complaint regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants of the vacation rental unit or their guests.

5. No radio receiver, musical instrument, phonograph, compact disk player, loudspeaker, karaoke machine, sound amplifier, or any machine, device or equipment that produces or reproduces any sound shall be used outside or be audible from the outside of any vacation rental unit between ten p.m. and seven a.m.

6. Prior to permitting occupancy of a vacation rental unit by a transient, the owner or the owner's authorized agent or representative shall: (a) obtain the name, address, and a copy of a valid government identification of the responsible person; (b) provide information about the vacation rental regulations; and (c) require such responsible person to execute a formal acknowledgement in the form required by the city that he or she is legally responsible for compliance by all occupants of the vacation rental unit and their guests with all applicable laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the vacation rental unit. This information shall be maintained by the owner or the owner's authorized agent or representative for a period of three years and be made readily available upon request of any officer of the city

responsible for the enforcement of any provision of the municipal code or any other applicable law, rule or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of the vacation rental unit.

7. Trash and refuse shall not be left stored within public view, except in proper containers for the purpose of collection by the city's authorized waste hauler on scheduled trash collection days. The owner, the owner's authorized agent or representative shall use reasonably prudent business practices to ensure compliance with all the provisions of Chapter 6.04 (Refuse Disposal).

8. The owner, the owner's authorized agent or representative and/or the owner's designated local contact person shall post a copy of the vacation rental unit permit and a notice in the form required by the city of the applicable regulations in a conspicuous place within the vacation rental unit. Further, the owner and/or the owner's authorized agent or representative shall include the current vacation rental unit permit number on or in any advertisement appearing in any newspaper, magazine, brochure, television trade paper, Internet website, etc., that promotes the availability or existence of a vacation rental unit in a place or location deemed acceptable by the city manager or designee. In the instance of audio-only advertising of the same, the vacation rental unit permit number shall be read as part of the advertising. The maximum overnight occupancy of the vacation rental unit, as provided for in subsection (E)(3), shall be clearly identified in any advertisement.

9. Unless otherwise provided in this section, the owner of a vacation rental unit and/or the owner's authorized agent or representative shall be subject to and shall comply with all provisions of this chapter concerning transient occupancy taxes, including, but not limited to, submission of a monthly or alternative return in accordance with Section 3.24.045 of this chapter, which shall be filed monthly even if the vacation rental unit was not rented during each such month.

10. No fence or wall required by Section 9.14.110, 9.16.110, 9.18.110, 9.20.110, 9.22.110, or 9.46.110 or any other provision of Title 9 of this code shall be removed, in whole or in part, from the rear or side yard of any vacation rental unit.

F. Additional or Modified Operational Requirements and Conditions.

1. The city manager, or designee, shall have the authority to impose additional conditions on the use of any given vacation rental unit to ensure that any potential secondary effects unique to the subject vacation rental unit are avoided or adequately mitigated.

2. The standard conditions set forth herein may be modified by the city manager, or designee, upon request of the owner or the owner's authorized agent or representative based on site-specific circumstances for the purpose of allowing reasonable accommodation of a vacation rental. All requests must be in writing and shall identify how the strict application of the standard conditions creates an unreasonable hardship to a property such that, if the requirement is not modified, reasonable use of the property for a vacation rental would not be allowed. Any hardships identified must relate to physical constraints to the subject site and shall not be self-induced or economic. Any modifications of the standard conditions shall not further exacerbate an already existing problem.

G. Violations, Notices, Remedies and Penalties.

1. Imposition of Additional Conditions; Suspension and Revocation.

a. A violation of any provision of this chapter by any of the occupants, responsible parties, owner(s) or the owner's authorized agent(s) or representative(s) shall authorize the city manager, or designee, to impose additional conditions on the use of any given vacation rental unit to ensure that any potential additional violations are avoided.

b. A violation of any provision of this section chapter by any of the occupants, responsible parties, owner(s) or the owner's authorized agent(s) or representative(s) shall constitute grounds for modification, suspension and/or revocation of the vacation rental unit permit and/or any affiliated licenses or permits pursuant to the provisions set forth in Chapter 13.150. The city may issue a notice of violation to any occupant, responsible party, owner(s) or the owner's authorized agent or representative, pursuant to Chapter 13.55, if there is any violation of this section committed, caused or maintained by the any of the above parties.

2. It shall be unlawful to commit a violation of any term or condition of a vacation rental unit permit, and such violation shall be subject to any enforcement action available under this code, at law or in equity, without limitation.

3. Any person issued an administrative citation under Chapter 13.58 for a violation of this chapter or for violation of a term or condition of a vacation rental unit permit, for each separate violation, shall be subject to a fine in an amount to be established by resolution of the city council. Upon a fourth violation within twelve months at the same vacation rental unit, the city shall suspend the vacation rental unit permit for that unit for a period of time determined by the city.

4. Public Nuisance. It shall be a public nuisance for any person to commit, cause or maintain a violation of this section, which shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 13.90.

5. Any vacation rental unit operating without a permit from the city as required by this chapter as of the effective date of this subsection 3.24.011(G)(5). shall obtain a permit from this city within sixty days of the effective date of this subsection or cease operations. (Ord. 792 § 1, 2017; Ord. 781 § 1, 2016; Ord. 717 § 2, 2012)

View the [mobile version](#).